

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 18-30 have been added. New claims 18-29 correspond, respectively, to canceled claims 1-10, 12 and 13. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The disclosure has been amended to correct various informalities noted by the Examiner. Specifically, on page 13, line 25, the word "by" has been inserted between "respectively" and "the". On page 16, lines 21-22, the phrase "as the follow" has been deleted and replaced by the phrase "as follows." In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, a section entitled CROSSREFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS has been added to the application before the BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION, and the related applications disclosed on page 52, lines 7-11, have been identified therein.

The rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-13. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 18-30 are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and are in condition for allowance.

The rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mortimer is rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-7. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 18-30 are patentably distinguishable from Mortimer.

Claims 18-30 are directed to a system comprising a number of elements in combination. In representative claim 18, for example, the claimed combination includes a lecture terminal and a plurality of listener terminals. The lecture terminal comprises a first input unit that includes a touch panel for inputting information written by a lecturer on the touch panel by detecting positions at which the lecturer touches the touch panel, obtaining coordinates of the detected positions and outputting coordinate information corresponding to the detected positions. The combination also includes a written-information sender configured to identify the lecture-written information and send the identified lecture-written information to the listener terminals. At least one of the listener terminals comprises a first reader, a first display, and a first writer. The first reader is configured to read, from a listener recording medium, book information representing information from a book. The first display is configured to display, on a listener page, the book information and the lecture-

written information from the written-information sender. The first writer is configured to record, on the listener recording medium, the lecture-written information displayed by the first display.

A similar combination is neither disclosed nor suggested in Mortimer.

As described, for example, in column 5, lines 13 to 35 of Mortimer, the input unit of Mortimer's CIT book comprises a keyboard, a mouse, a scanner and a communications unit. However, in clear contrast to the present invention, there is no teaching or suggestion in Mortimer of a combination that includes a touch panel. Unlike the present invention, Mortimer's CIT book does not detect the position that the lecturer touches, obtain the coordinates of the detected position, and identify information written using the coordinate information. The system defined by claims 18-30 is neither disclosed nor suggested by Mortimer. It is therefore respectfully submitted that new claims 18-30 are patentably distinguishable from Mortimer.

The rejection of claims 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mortimer in view of Richter is rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 8 – 13. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 18-30 are patentably distinguishable from Mortimer and Richter, viewed alone or in combination.

The present invention, in a preferred embodiment, includes an attendance-management terminal. A combination including an attendance management terminal is neither disclosed nor suggested in either Mortimer or Richter, viewed alone or in combination.

The Examiner acknowledges that Mortimer fails to disclose an attendance-management terminal. The Examiner therefore relies upon Richter for Richter's disclosure of methods for keeping students in their seats in front of the student computers. Specifically, Richter discloses at column 3, lines 34 – 67, that a system may be programmed to require a student *who is already in attendance* to periodically submit to an identification program. The program may periodically or randomly provide a notice on the screen monitor that requires compliance in order for the session to continue. If the key is not struck, or if the biometric system does not confirm that the student is present, then the computer will shut down. According to Richter, the objective is to insure that a student does not simply log on and then leave the computer unattended. If the student fails to comply, then the student is not credited for "seat time."

Richter thereby discloses a system for determining whether a student *who is already attending class is remaining in their seat and paying attention*. Richter fails to disclose or suggest a system including an attendance terminal for determining whether the student is attending class or not attending class. There is no teaching or suggestion in Richter of checking attendance by using a touch panel, as in the present invention. There is no teaching or suggestion in Richter of displaying a checkbox to confirm attendance, or detecting that students touched a position of the touch panel at the same position as the position where the checkbox is displayed. In short, Richter merely discloses a method for keeping students in their seats once they are in attendance. Richter fails to disclose or suggest a method for taking attendance of the students.

While Richter discloses at column 4, lines 5 to 6, that a video record may be maintained as evidence of a student's attendance, this method is completely different from the method recited in claims 18-30, in which student attendance is confirmed by students touching a touch panel. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 18-30 are patentably distinguishable from Mortimer and Richter, viewed alone or in combination.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 116692001100.

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